SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5241**

9		4					7	5
				6		2	4	
	7	6	2	5	4	3		
				1	5		2	
	1			9	8			
								9
1		5		7	9			
6					2			3
7			8					

TRICKY **B5241**

						2	8	
8		1						
7		3	2			1		
1	5		9					6
					5	4		2
		9	8					
	4	6						
			3	7	4		5	
	1			6				

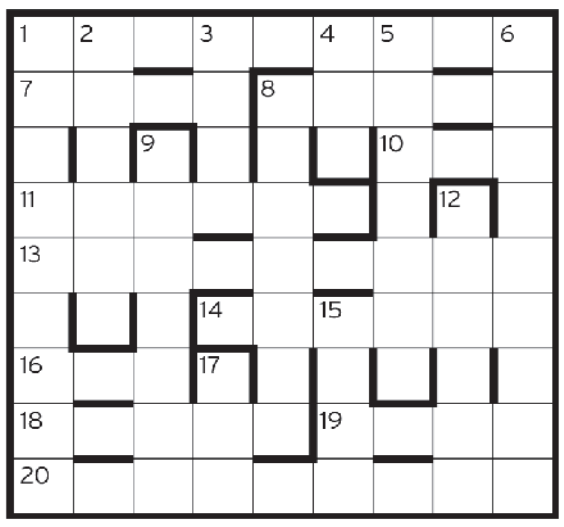
To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

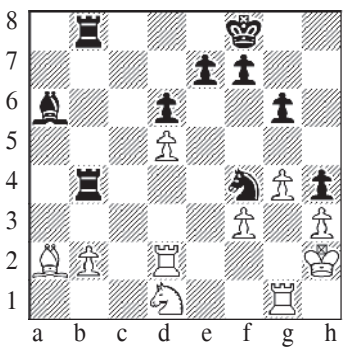
1 Return journey (5,4)
7 Reflection of sound (4)
8 Sports venue (5)
10 Curve (3)
11 Podium (6)
13 Common invertebrate (9)
14 Part of the eye (6)
16 Small child (3)
18 Each (5)
19 Feel sore (4)
20 Vanish (9)



DOWN

1 Esteemed (9)
2 Relating to the eye (6)
3 Midday (4)
4 Sample (3)
5 Motives (7)
6 Race speed setter (9)
8 _ Hopkins, actor (7)
9 Corsairs (7)
12 _ Franklin, singer (6)
15 Harvest (4)
17 Epoch (3)

CHESS



BLACK TO PLAY

HINT: A NICE BISHOP MOVE.

Solution: 1. ... Be2! (threatens 2. ... Bxf3, as well as: 2. ... Bxd1 followed by 3. ... Rxb2) [adapted, Roser-Maze '14].

TARGET

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 15;

Very good 23;

Excellent 30 (or more).

Solution monday.

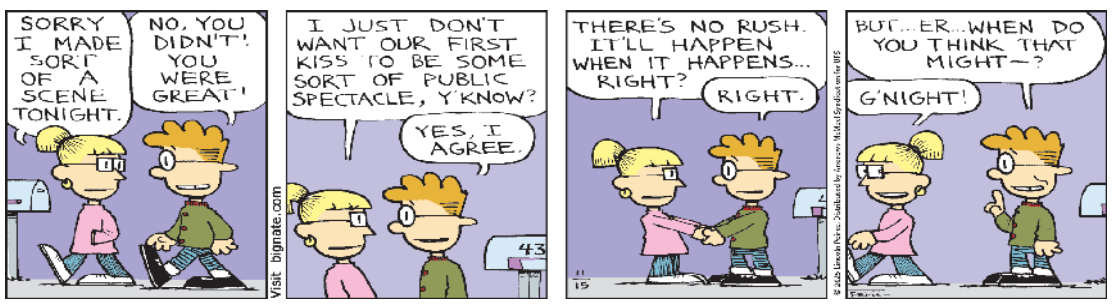
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

BREECHING

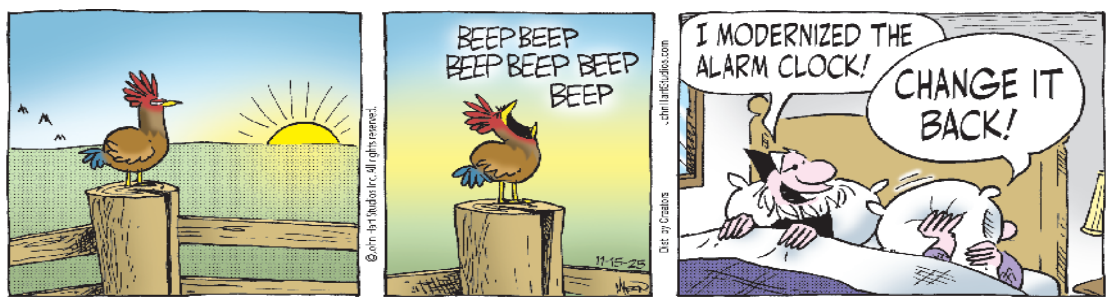
beech bench bencher birch breech BREECHING cere cheer cheering chin chine crib cringe enrich generic genic hence iceberg inch nice nicer niche niece rice rich

THE METRO FUNNIES

BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE


SORRY I MADE SORT OF A SCENE TONIGHT.
NO, YOU DIDN'T! YOU WERE GREAT!
I JUST DON'T WANT OUR FIRST KISS TO BE SOME SORT OF PUBLIC SPECTACLE, Y'KNOW?
YES, I AGREE.
THERE'S NO RUSH. IT'LL HAPPEN WHEN IT HAPPENS... RIGHT?
RIGHT.
BUT...ER...WHEN DO YOU THINK THAT MIGHT—?
G'NIGHT!
Visit bignate.com

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



BABY BLUES

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	05:39pm	05:08pm	05:45pm	05:06pm	05:13pm	05:41pm
Sunrise	06:43am	06:37am	06:48am	06:29am	06:44am	06:53am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow			Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook	Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	12	28	Sunny	61	11	27	Mostly Sunny	12	27	Partly Cloudy
Hyderabad	14	32	Sunny	34	12	31	Sunny	12	32	Sunny
Islamabad	9	25	Sunny	49	10	25	Mostly Sunny	10	24	Sunny
Lahore	12	27	Sunny	71	12	27	Sunny	12	26	Mostly Sunny
Multan	12	28	Sunny	58	12	28	Mostly Sunny	12	28	Mostly Sunny
Peshawar	9	25	Sunny	59	10	25	Mostly Cloudy	10	24	Mostly Sunny
Quetta	5	20	Sunny	23	6	21	Partly Cloudy	8	21	Partly Cloudy

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD
RASPBERRY

(RASPBERRY: RAZ-beh-ree: A small one-seeded red or black edible berry.)

Average mark 27 words
Time limit 50 minutes

Can you find 44 or more words in RASPBERRY?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD — SACHETS

sachet	cash	heat
sash	cashes	each
sate	cast	east
scat	caste	etch
scathe	cesta	teach
seat	chase	tech
sect	chaste	
shea	chat	
stash	cheat	
ache	chess	
ashes	chest	
asset	haste	
case	hate	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

1 Emphasise
7 Button
9 Classes
10 Hens
12 Sir
13 Whirled
14 Nap
15 Sofa
17 Helpful
19 Ethnic
20 Certainly.

DOWN

1 Exchange
2 Mile
3 Pea
4 Australia
5 Steals
6 Solid
8 Normally
11 Silent
13 Waste
16 Fuel
18 Fun.

METRO EVENTS

FILM

Na Maloom Afraad is screened as part of the World Culture Festival, at Auditorium 2, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 4pm.

MUSIC

A 'Mega Music Concert' is organised as part of the World Culture Festival at Jaun Elia Lawn, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 8pm.

FESTIVAL

'Sindh Literature Festival 2025' begins at Beach Luxury Hotel from 10am to 11:45pm.

CHILDREN'S MARKET

A 'Children's Market', featuring creativity, innovation and fun, at TDF's Magnifi Science Centre, from 4pm to 9pm.

EDUCATION EXPO

A two-day 'Dawn Education Expo 2025', an opportunity to connect with 100+ international and local universities, and get free visa guidance, is held at Pearl Continental from 11am to 6pm. Entry is free.

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

**** You can get a lot done today, especially with the cooperation of others. Possibly, a friend or a member of a group will show you how to do something better or make an improvement. Meanwhile, travel plans promise exciting times ahead! Tonight: Be cooperative.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

*** This is a productive and successful day for you, especially at work or doing any task that you set for yourself. Issues related to health care and pets are also favored. Your energy might attract help -- financial or practical -- to come your way. Tonight: Get better organized.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

**** If you work in the arts, the entertainment world or with children, you might have some revolutionary ideas today about how to do something in a new and improved way. Meanwhile, it's a great day to socialize. Meet friends for coffee, lunch or happy hour. Talk about your exes (who are not all in Texas). Tonight: Socialize!

CANCER | June 21-July 22

*** If you look around you, you'll see ways to make improvements at home, especially to bathrooms, laundry areas, plumbing, garbage and recycling. Put on a pot of coffee, because lively discussions will take place, perhaps about home repairs. Tonight: Relax.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

**** When talking to others today, you'll be convincing, which is an excellent advantage if you're in sales, marketing, teaching, acting or writing. You'll say what you mean and mean what you say. You might entertain children and others at social outings or sports events. Tonight: Conversations.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

*** Discussions about money will be firm and intense today. In fact, you might see ways to boost your income or secure your finances in some fashion. You also might spend money on home repairs or a family member, especially about something related to the past. Tonight: Check your belongings.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

**** Today the Moon is in your sign powerfully supported by three other planets, which makes you committed, intentional and strong. You'll be persuasive and proactive. Go after what you want and expect positive results. You might act independently today. Tonight: You win!

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

*** Issues going on behind the scenes have your attention today. In fact, secrets might come out. Or perhaps you're trying to keep something a secret. Certainly, relations with others will be warm and friendly, because with Venus in your sign now, you are diplomatic and charming with everyone. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

**** Your interaction with a friend or member of a group will be important to you today. Very likely, they will listen to you, because with both Mercury and Mars in your sign, you're convincing. This is an excellent day to wrap up old business or address past issues, once and for all. Tonight: Be friendly.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

*** You're noticed today. You're high-viz, which means you need to be aware of what you're doing, because some people know personal details about your private life. Look to friends and groups for support. Meanwhile, a casual friendship could turn romantic. Tonight: You're admired.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

**** Discussions about politics, religion and racial issues might be profound and meaningful today. You might influence a friend or a group, especially if discussing old issues or something from the past. There could be an element of competition present. Be reasonable and cooperative, which you are. Tonight: A new discovery.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

*** Today you'll be to the point and confident during any discussion about inheritances, taxes, debt, insurance issues or anything that you share jointly with someone else. You will vigorously defend your best interests. A boss or someone in authority might speak on your behalf, perhaps for a second time. Tonight: Check your finances.

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

All roads lead to Rome

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 4 3 2
♥ 10 6 2
♦ A K 7
♣ Q J 5 4

WEST
♠ K 10 5
♥ K Q J 7 3
♦ 6 5 2
♣ 6 3

EAST
♠ J 8 7 6
♥ A 9 8 5
♦ 10 9 8 4
♣ 8

SOUTH
♠ A Q 9
♥ 4
♦ Q J 3
♣ A K 10 9 7 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	1 ♥	2 ♣	2 ♥
4 ♣	Pass	5 ♣	

Opening lead -- king of hearts.

This deal occurred in a team-of-four match and is notable chiefly because it illustrates how there is often more than one good story in any given deal.

At the first table, West led the king of hearts against five clubs and continued with the queen after East signaled with the nine. Declarer ruffed, played the A-Q of clubs, trumped the ten of hearts, cashed the Q-K-A of diamonds and led a spade from dummy, finessing the nine.

West won with the ten but had to return a spade or yield a ruff-and-discard. Either way, South was sure to make the contract.

At the second table, West also led the king of hearts against five clubs. But here, East overtook the king with the ace and returned a low spade, hoping to forestall a potential endplay against his partner.

Declarer finessed the nine, losing to the ten, and West then played the queen of hearts. South ruffed and, virtually certain that West had the king of spades, decided to play for a squeeze. Accordingly, he led all his remaining trumps, discarding a spade from dummy, and then cashed the Q-K-A of diamonds, producing this position with West not yet having played to the last diamond:

North
♠ 4
♥ 10

West
♠ K 5
♥ J

East
♠ J 6

South
♠ A Q

West could not afford to part with the jack of hearts, so he discarded the five of spades. This did not help him in the least because declarer, confident of what was going on, led a spade to the ace, felling the king, and so also made five clubs.

Tomorrow: Ingenuity is well-rewarded.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5240

4	1	5	6	3	9	8	7	2
6	2	3	4	8	7	1	5	9
9	8	7	1	2	5	4	6	3
1	3	9	5	6	8	7	2	4
2	5	4	7	9	1	6	3	8
7	6	8	3	4	2	9	1	5
3	7	1	9	5	4	2	8	6
5	4	2	8	1	6	3	9	7
8	9	6	2	7	3	5	4	1

Tricky — B5240

5	9	4	2	7	8	3	6	1
8	2	1	6	5	3	4	9	7
7	3	6	9	4	1	8	5	2
1	4	3	5	6	7	2	8	9
2	5	7	3	8	9	1	4	6
6	8	9	4	1	2	7	3	5
4	1	5	7	3	6	9	2	8
3	7	2	8	9	5	6	1	4
9	6	8	1	2	4	5	7	3